Throughout Comparative Aesthetics: A Workbook the author refers to three separate periods in the life of every autonomous-aesthetic phenomenon:

- between the opening and the closing of the first circle in the life of the work of art

- between the opening and the closing of the second circle in the life of the work of art

- between the opening and the closing of the third circle in the life of the work of art.

The three circles in the life of every work of art are described in the text that is given on the following page. Note that the page following that text, p. xiv, as well as the page following the text that is given on p. xvii, are each followed by a blank page. The reason for the inclusion of those two blank pages in the present work is given on pp. xix-xx.